(ESTABLISHED 18,7.)

PUBLISHED WEEKLY. One Dollar per Year.

Invariably in Advance. Bix months, 75 cents. No subscription for a less period received.

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York, will be at the risk of the sender. AGENTS .- We employ no agents. THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE has many volunteer cancassers, and they are generally konest and faithful; but persons who confide their subscriptions to them must be their own judges of their responsibility. The paper will be sent ably-discharged soldiers and sailors from the necesonly on receipt of the subscription price.

ADDRESSES, RENEWALS, Etc.-Addresses will be changed as often as desired, but each subscriber should in every case give the old as well as new address. In venewing, subscribers should be careful to send us the label on the last paper received, and specify any corrections or changes they desire made in name or ad-

CORRESPONDENCE .- Correspondence is solicited from every section in regard to Grand Army, Pension, Military, Agricultural, Industrial and Household matters, and letters to the Editor will always receive prompt attention. Write on ONE SIDE of the paper only. We do not return communications or manuscripts unless they are accompanied by a request to that effect and the necessary postage, and under no eireumstances guarantee their publication at any special date. Address all communications to

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, Washington, D. C.

ENTERED AT THE WASHINGTON FORT OFFICE AS SECOND CLASS MATTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., FEBRUARY 18, 1886.

General Sherman on The Tribane. HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE U. S., WASHINGTON, D. C. To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

From the nature of the articles published in the numbers of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE sent me. I observe that it is published in the interest of the soldiers of the civil war. In this you have my hearty sympathy, and I will endeavor in my own sphere of action to co-operate with you in all practicable meas- destitute homes in every part of the Nation. ures to that end, without money and withont price. With great respect, Your obedient servant,

W. T. SHER MAN

OPINION THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE is the best solsee its circulation reach a half-million. JOHN S. KOUNTZ.

Toledo, O., Oct. 12, 1885. The Third Corps

GETTYSBURG.

By CAPT. J. E. SMITH,

Of Smith's Battery.

Capt. J. E. Smith, who commanded Smith's Battery at Gettysburg, and made with it a reputation second to that of no other organisation engaged, has prepared a careful paper which he belonged, in the battle. This will give many new facts in regard to the celebrated fight at the Peach Orchard, and show of what immense value to the Army of the there had been a dollar of bounty paid. Potomac was the time gained by the gallant

Capt. Smith's article has the sanction of suggested Capt. Smith as the best man to write up the fight.

The article will be well illustrated by maps and pictures, and will appear in the issue of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE for next

THE SOLDIERS' BULLETIN

MERGED WITH

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

That very excellent little paper-the Soldiers' Bulletia, published by Col. Milo B. Stevens, has ceased to be. It has been merged into THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, and its subscribers will receive a number of this paper for every number of the Bulletin that is due them

They will remember that the Bulletin is a semi-monthly, while THE NATIONAL TRIB-UNE is a weekly. Therefore those who have paid for the Bulletin a year will receive THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE for six months, and shorter periods in proportion. We trust and believe that they will be satisfied with the change, for while the Bulletin was conducted by Col. Stevens with marked ability, and loyalty to the best interests of the soldiers, yet THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE is in a position to serve them more acceptably than the Bulletin could. We welcome them to the great ranks of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE'S constituency. and congratulate them on being in line and in communication with the 115,000 comrades whose names appear on our list.

THE G.A.R. WATCH.

No one need be without a timepiece when THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE offers as a present to all sending 10 new subscribers a handsome and accurate stem-winding nickel watch, inclosed in a tasty satin-lined case. This watch is manufactured for us by the celebrated Waterbury Watch Company, and is the equal in usefulness and durability to a high-priced timekeeper. The price of the watch in conjunction with a year's sub cription to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE is \$3.50 which sum is also the cost of the watch alone.

FAGOTS FROM THE CAMPFIRE. Few books will so thoroughly interest the veterans of the late war as will "Fagots From

the Campfire," filled as it is with accounts of

thrilling adventures and hair-breadth escapes

of the private soldier. This work can be pro-

cured at this office for the exceedingly low price of 50 cents, or free for a club of five subscribers. MRS. SHERWOOD'S POEMS. The most popular book of war lyrics yet published is undoubtedly Mrs. Sherwood's "Campfire, Memorial Day and Other Poems." The vol-

ume, handsomely bound, can be procured at this office for \$1, or full gilt \$1.50.

CAPTURING A LOCOMOTIVE. We are getting pleasant reports from all who are engaged in selling that splendid book, "Capturing a Locomotive." It is no uncommon thing for an agent to sell from 20 to 30 in a week, and this without any special effort. Some of the more active and industrious have reached that number in a single day. There is no book in the market that takes so well with | were none when they entered the field, and the people. Send to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE PUBLISHING Co., Washington, D. C., for terms to agents and other information.

WORLD'S CYCLOPEDIA.

So many inquiries have come from our subscribers for copies of the World's Cyclopedia, of which we distributed several thousand last year, that we have secured a new supply. This book is a wonderful little mine of information on every-day topics, and neatly bound in cloth. We will send it to anyone who will raise us a club of six subscribers, or we will difficulties. send it and THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE for one year for \$1.60

INSULTING THE VETERANS.

Laboring strenuously to curry favor with the "uppeh clahses," the Boston Advertiser continues to seek every opportunity to insult and belittle the intelligence and patriotism of the noble men in Massachusetts sent to the field in the dark days of the war to do battle for the preservation of the property and rights of the men who would now deny them everything. In a recent leading editorial it said:

The majority of the Posts of the Grand Army o throw their influence in favor of what are certainly questionable measures. The State Encampment indorsed the Lovering pension bill, and adopted a resolution to have offered and advocated in the Legislature the bill of last year exempting honorsity of submitting to competitive examination for appointment to office under the civil service laws. The pension bill referred to would necessitate, if it endure the hardships and privations of solmoney now annually paid by the Government to the sufferers, or the families of the sufferers, by the late civil war. It would result in donating out of be allowed to go on heaping up wealth. the Treasury of the United States a lifelong pension to thousands upon thousands of men who did not suffer the least bodily injury from service in the army, and who only went into the service because doing. So, too, in the matter of the civil service examination. The Grand Army of the Republic men would foist upon the public service a set of in- arguments for repudiating the just claims of competent men merely because they had done army duty in the past. For it should not be overlooked that, however great the patriotism of our citizens was in the years of 1861 and 1862, the armies of the Federal Government were only recruited during the years of 1863 and 1864 by drafts and the payment of enormous bounties. The fever of patriotism had run its course, and, if it had depended upon patriot service to save the country, by donations of public money and by compulsion that men were induced to go to the front; and, with to assume that those who thus went are, for their public spirit and devotion, deserving of lifelong generosity on the part of their fellow-citizens.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, as every one knows, has been opposed to the \$8-a-month service pension scheme, believing that such a measure has no sort of a chance with Congress or the country at present, and that its agitation will embarrass other plans upon which the body of the G.A.R. is united, and which will bring much needed relief to

But whatever may be thought of the action of the majority of the Department of Massachusetts, there can be no two opinons PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KOUNTZ'S that the editorial of the Advertiser is as mean and vicious an assault upon the veterans as dier paper published, and I would rejoice to | ever emanated from the Copperhead or rebel press during the bitterest periods of the war.

> It is a gross calumny on our people to say that the "fever of patriotism had run its course" by the end of the second year of the war, and that "if it had depended upon patriot service to save the country, the country never would have been saved."

If this were only approximately true it would stigmatize us as having less of patriotism and courage than the effete people of worn-out lands, for we should go far indeed to find a people so lost to pride as to give up at the end of two years a fight for their national life. No one but a man with selfishness and cowardice thoroughly ingrained on the operations of the Third Corps, to into his nature will say that the young men who carried the struggle on to the victorious end would not have done it whether or not

It is true that toward the end of the war there were drafts and large bounties paid. Gen. Daniel E. Sickles, and it was he who But there was never in the history of the world a war of as long continuance which was carried on with as little help from these aids in filling armies. At least three out of five of the men whose names appear on the rolls of the army received no bounty whatever, beyond the Government's allowance of \$100 in greenbacks, which at the time it was paid them represented not more than \$35. What inducement was there in this paltry sum to lead any man into years of perilous serv-

> From first to last there were 2,859,132 men mustered into the service of the Government. Of these the following received no bounty

ı	First three months' men	91,81
	Six months' men (1861)	2,71
5	One year's men (1861)	9,147
1	Second three months' men	15,00
1	Nine months' men	87,58
L	Six months' men (1963)	16,36
	One hundred days' men	83,613
l	Other short time men	15,000
	¥	201 040

This, it will readily be seen, makes a very big hole in the grand total. The following men received but \$100 bounty, which, when it was paid them, was worth only \$35 in gold. As they did not get this unless they served two years or more, at least half did not get any bounty at all.

Call of May 3, 1861.

When we add this to the sum above, and include the men who were deprived of the limitation it might as well do it as an bounty because disabled before serving two amendment to the bill under consideration for years, we find that much more than half the men who gathered around the flag either received no bounty at all, or, at most, got but \$35 worth of depreciated paper. It is true that since the war Congress has done something to repair injustice toward this class by an additional allowance of \$100 to a small portion of them, but this was not enough to affect the general statement.

We hear much talk of enormous bounties now-much more than we heard at the time. The men who were in the field before Lee and Hood-the men who were shooting the rebellion to death-the men who were manning the 35 miles of trenches around Petersburg, who were making the March to the Sea, who were beating the venom out of Hood's army at Franklin and Nashvilleheard little about enormous bounties. There the only information they got in regard to them was from some occasional substitute who was thrust into their company, and who told how well he had been paid for enlisting to save some such man as the editor of the Boston Advertiser from being snatched away from his money-making schemes, to do his share toward rescuing the country from her

Undoubtedly there were big bounties paid is the question at issue.

in many places in the last few months of the war. But these were mainly confined to the large cities and the manufacturing centers, where men were heaping up money so fast that they were willing to pay any price rather than be disturbed at their wealth-accumulating. Such men as the editor of the Boston Advertiser forget, however, how the talk of big bounties recoils on themselves. If in 1864 it required enormous bounties to induce men to enlist, then there should be the greater credit given to the Republic in this State seem to be disposed to the men who enlisted in 1861, '2 and '3, with little or no bounty, and who formed the bone and sinew of the army which broke the backbone of the rebellion. The big bounties were paid by rich men who were either afraid to go to the war, who were unwilling to became a law, an enormous enlargement of the diering, or who were making so much money that they were willing to pay anything to

But the editor of the Advertiser cares little for the right or justice of the matter. they were paid enormous bounties in money for so He only desires to appeal to the selfishness of the moneyed classes, and furnish them the men whose services are no longer needed to stand between them and destruction.

VETERANS' RIGHTS IN NEW YORK.

Comrades Joseph W. Kay, Thos. B. O'Dell and Dr. J. T. Burdick, of the Union Vetthe country would never have been saved. It was erans' Association, Edward A. Dubey, President of the Kings County Association, these facts staring us in the face, it will hardly do and Hon. Walter Howe have been doing very effective work for the veterans at Albany. They appeared before the Judiciary Committees of the Assembly to advocate the bill which we published a few weeks ago, and of which the essential por-

> Sec. 4. In grateful recognition of the services, sacrifices and sufferings of persons who served in the army or navy of the United States in the late war, and have been honorably discharged therefrom, they shall be certified as such by the Examiner or Board of Examiners, as the case may be, to the appointing officer, or other appointing power, and shall be preferred for appointment to positions in the civil service of the State and of the cities affected by this act, and the several acts hereby amended, over all other persons, though not graded higher than others so examined and certified, provided, their qualifications and fitness shall have been ascertained as provided under this act and the several acts hereby amended; and the person thus preferred shall not be disqualified from holding any position in said civil service on account of his age, nor by reason of any physical disability, provided such age or disability does not render him incompetent to perform the duties of the position

applied for, * * * Sec. 5. Whenever it shall appear after a competitive examination for appointment to a position in the civil service of the State or of the cities affected by this act and the several acts hereby amended, that more than one such honorably-discharged soldier or sailor is qualified to fill the same, the Examiner or Board of Examiners, as the case may be, shall certify for appointment to the appointing officer or other appointing power all of such honorablydischarged soldiers or sailors whose quailfications and fitness have been ascertained as aforesaid. specifying their respective grades in such examination, and in such case the appointment shall be made from among those so certified who are graded highest as the result of such examination.

Hon. Walter Howe made a very strong argument in favor of the bill, and was followed by Comrades Kay, O'Dell, Dubey and Burke in shorter speeches.

Hon. Seth Low resisted the proposed change in the law on the ground that any change would be injurious to it, since it would tend to uproot its underlying principles, and that the one contemplated would give the veterans the monopoly of the offices of the State, for there were several thousands more of them in the State than there were offices to be filled. He added that since the passage of the Civil Service law the veterans had passed, on the average, better examinations than the civilians, so that they did not need an exemption to be made in their favor.

The Committee decided to report the bill

A MATTER OF JUSTICE.

The Dubuque Times of recent date published some criticisms upon Col. Hepburn and Maj. Holmes, Members from Iowa, be-

cause of their advocacy of the arrears amendment to the widows' pension bill which lately passed the House. The article maintained that the action of the two gentlemen was calculated to endanger the passage of the widows' bill and drew some conclusions very

The point at issue was simply a parlia-

mentary one. Both were in favor of the widows' bill and voted for it. They were also in favor of the righteous measure for the re peal of the limitations in the arrears act. They held that if a vote could be brought 657,868 out strong enough to pass the amendment for the repeal of the limitation of arrears, the same vote would pass the bill as amended; and, further, that if Congress meant to repeal the benefit of the widows as at any other time. In this view THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE concurred, although we were aware that many whose friendship for the soldier could not be questioned differed from us as to the advisability of this form of bringing forward

We have observed the difficulty of securing consideration for a worthy measure, and the defeat of bills that should have been passed by simply preventing a vote thereon. as in the case of the Mexican pension bill and amendments in the House last Congress. We welcomed, therefore, any parliamentary proceeding which would force a vote upon the arrears proposition, and we believe that the measure would have passed the House could a vote have been reached upon it either in the form of an amendment to another bill or as an independent proposition, and regret that by a parliamentary technicality the | G. P. Terrell, Mehama, Ore ... matter was not put to a vote.

At any rate, it is unjust to Col. Hepburn and Maj. Holmes to charge them with opposition to the widows' bill for advocating the amendment, for no two Members of the House can be depended upon with greater safety than them to vote and speak right when justice to their old comrades-in-arms

A VALIANT KNIGHT FALLEN.

In striking down Gen. Hancock Death has removed from among us one of the knightliest figures among the contestants on either side of the great struggle of the rebellion.

He was such a man, such a fighter, and such a leader as might have sat with the legendary knights that gathered about King Arthur's round table, and been the peer of the bravest, the truest, and the most courteous among them. In purely knightly traits of character he had no superior in any age or country. He was as absolutely without fear and without reproach as Chevalier Bayard himself, and as long as our history shall last he will stand as the type of an ideal leader of grand masses of fighting men, kingly in form and feature, great-hearted and generous, a whirlwind upon the field of battle, a gracious gentleman in peace. To the Army of the Potomac he was such a leader as Murat-Napoleon's "right arm"was to the armies of France, with vastly more nobility of character and more ability than the great French cavalryman could lay claim to.

What rank he might have taken as commander of an army we do not know. He never had an opportunity to conduct a campaign, such as Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Thomas, Meade, McClellan, Buell, Hooker, Rosecrans, and others had. But as an executant, as a leader of soldiers in battle, he never had a superior. Nothing could be finer than his leadership of his brigade in the battles on the Peninsula and at Antietam, of his division at Fredericksburg, and of his corps at Gettysburg and in the Wilderness campaign. He was only equaled in this respect by such men as Logan, Sedgwick, Humphreys, and Kearny. To the same class belong on the rebel side Longstreet, the Hills, and Pat.

His whole life was on the same elevated plane as his soldierly service to his country. In every relation of life he was the same high-souled, ardent, unshakingly loyal man.

THE Hon. John R. Eden, representing the 17th Illinois District is one of the most useful Members in Congress. The quiet and efficient manner in which he serves his district is another exemplification of the wisdom of constituencies which send experienced men to represent them in the House. Mr. Eden is now on his fifth term, and has therefore a training in Governmental business that is of more practical advantage to his district than any other consideration to be urged. He is an industrious and earnest friend of the Union soldier, and may be relied on to vote to give the veteran his just

SENATOR VAN WYCK has introduced an amendment to the House bill to increase the widows' pension, which provides that the pension to dependent minors shall be increased from \$2, as now, to \$5 where they have lost one parent, and to \$10 where they have lost both parents, and he also extends the pensionable age from 16 to 18 years. The Senator's amendment also provides that dependent parents shall only be required to prove dependence at the time of application, and not prior dependence.

JUDGE SENEY, Member of Congress for the Seventh Ohio District, is preparing a minority report dissenting from the bill reported back favorably by the committee to establish a time limitation to bar claims against the Government. He proposed to to insert the word "except" before the words for back pay or bounty due to officers, soldiers," etc. Col. Hepburn, of Iowa, and probably some others, will join Judge Seney in the minority report.

The number of pension certificates issued during the week ending Feb. 13, 1886, was as follows: Original, 652; increase, 388: re-issue, 84; restoration, 20; duplicate, 24; accrued, 23; Act of March 3, 1883, 4; Order April 3, 1884, 17; Act of March 3, 1885, 5; total, 1,217.

THE interview with Commissioner of Agriculture Coleman on sorghum sugar which appears in our Agricultural column will be found highly interesting to those who have given any thought to this subject and its vast importance from the standpoint of political economy.

WE call attention to an important letter in another column from Gen. Black on the subject of the obsolete pension laws, which gave half-year's pay to the widows of officers who were killed or died, and which has been the cause of circulars from Pension Agents raising hopes that could not be fulfilled.

THE many friends of "Si Klegg" will miss his familiar face this week. He has not deserted nor been killed or captured; but his artist is in hospital. Si will come smiling next week with a chapter of fresh and spicy adventures.

CLUB RAISERS. The following are some of our successful

Club-raisers for the past week: C. F. Greening, Grand Meadow, Minn. B. C. Henderson, Victory, Wis. A. E. Christie, Austin, Minn. John C. Hart, New Brighton, Pa., John C. Nuttall, Youngsville, Pa.. Z. S. Kyes, Hammond, Wis ... D. Q. Reynolds, Pardeeville, Wis. S. S. Thompson, Armstrong, Kan ... Rob't Beekman, Shelton, Neb., R. W. Jones, Girard, O Ira L. Pool, Edgerton, O ... W. H. Coleman, Oakland City, Ind. T. J. Cravens, El Dorado, III. L. Phillips, Conwa, Iowa... I. B. Binford, Cambria, Iowa. M. L. Lockerby, Mankato, Minn N. Davis, Verona, Pa...

EVERYBODY DELIGHTED. The pictures of Grant, Sherman and Sheridan are going off very rapidly, and everybody who gets them is delighted with them. They could not be finer pictures or better portraits if they cost \$1 a piece, and in fact they are much better than any which are selling in the stores for \$1 and upward apiece.

Remember that The National Tribune Costs only Two cents a week.

THE RED ACORN.

It is a bright, humorous and attractive story of The "Red Acorn" is just the book to place in the hands of young people who are hungering for the true story of the war. Sent by THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE to any address on receipt

THE GRAND ARMY BLUE BOOK. The best manual that newly-elected officers of Posts can have to instruct them in their duties and to solve difficult questions that continually arise in and out of the Post room is the "Grand Army Blue Book," by Past Commander-in-Chief Robert B. Beath, of Philadelphia. A new and improved edition of this admirable digest of Grand Army law has just been gotten out, and THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE will send it to any address on receipt of \$1.

"WIDOWS OF SOLDIERS."

Commissioner Black Shows that a Recent Circular in Regard to their Claims is Misleading. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, PENSION OFFICE, Washington, D. C., Feb. 5, 1886.

Hon. C. C. Matson, Chairman, Committee on Invalid Pensions, House of Representatives. SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith a circular letter recently issued by Claim Agents of this city, soliciting employment in the prosecution of a claim which they say is not in the nature of a pension," and which they say they have reason to believe is due from the Government to the widows of soldiers who have een "killed in battle or died of wounds," and to state that the said Claim Agents refer to the benefits conferred by Section 1656 of the Revised Statutes,

which reads as follows: When any officer, non-commissioned officer, artificer, or private of the militia or volunteer corps, dies in the service of the United States, or in returning to his place of residence after being mustered out of service, or at any time, in consequence of wounds received in service, and leaves a widow or if no widow, a child or children, under 16 years of age, such widow, or if no widow, such child or children, shall be entitled to receive half the monthly pay to which the deceased was entitled at the time of his death, during the term of five years and in case of the death or intermarriage of such widow, before the expiration of five years, the half-pay for the remainder of the time shall go to the child or children of the decedent, and the Sec retary of the Interior shall adopt such forms of evidence in applications under this Section as the President may prescribe.

The questions I have endeavored to determine are, whether the benefit conferred by this section is a "pension," and if so, the classes of persons to whom it relates, and whether it is now in force. To this end I have examined with care, our penion system as established by the various enactments from the early days of the Government to

the present time. Among the early general laws granting "half-pay pensions" to widows and orphans was the act fixing the "Military Peace Establishment," approved March 16, 1802, Vol. 2, page 132, U. S. Statutes at Large, which provided that if any commissioned officer in the Military Peace Establishment of the United States should, while in the service of the United States, die by reason of any wound received in the service, and should leave a widow, or if no vidow, a child or children under 16 years of age, such widow, or if no widow, such child or children should be entitled to and receive "half the monthly pay" to which the decedent would have been entitled at the time of death, for and during the term of five years.

On the 12th of April, 1808, Congress passed an act, Vol. 2, page 481, U. S. Statutes at Large, to raise for a limited time an additional military force, extending the same "half-monthly pay" benefits to the widows and orphans of the officers raised, pursuant to said act, that had been granted to the widows and

On the 11th of January, 1812, Congress passed an act to raise an additional military force. Vol. 2, page 571, U.S. Statutes at Large, granting the same halfnonthly pay for five years to the widows of comissioned officers of the "Military Establishment of the United States" who should die by reason of any wound received in actual service. On the 29th of January, 1813, Congress passed an iet, additional to the act of Jan. 11, 1812, Vol. 2,

page 794, U. S. Statutes at Large, extending the ame "half-monthly pay" for five years, to the widows and children of commissioned officers who should die while in the service of the United States by reason of any wound received therein. On the 19th of April, 1812, Congress passed an act, Vol. 2, page 704, U. S. Statutes at Large, entitled "An act for the relief of the officers and soldiers who served in the campaign on the Wabash,'

which the same provisions, as to five years halfpay, were made in behalf of the widows and orphans of the officers and soldiers of the volunteers nd militia who served in said campaign: On the 2d of August, 1813, Congress passed an act, Vol. 3, page 73, U. S. Statutes at Large, entitled "An act to provide for the widows and orphans of militia slain, and for militia disabled, in the service of the United States," in which the same five years alf-pay provisions are made in behalf of the widows and minor children of any commissioned offiers of the militia or volunteers who "shall, while

any wound received in actual service of the United States On April 16, 1816, Congress passed an act, Vol. 3, page 285, U. S. Statutes at Large, entitled "An act naking further previsions for military service durng the late war, and for other purposes," in which the same five years half-pay provisions are made for the widows and minor children of the officers and soldiers of the militia, including rangers, seafencibles and volunteers-under certain limitations as to term of enlistment-or of the commissioned officers of the Regular Army, who "shall have died while in the service of the United States during the late war, or in returning to his place of esidence after being mustered out of service, or who shall have died at any time thereafter in conequence of wounds received while in the service. On the 20th of April, 1818, Congress passed an act, Vol. 3, page 459, U. S. Statutes at Large, entitled "An act to increase the pay of the militia while in actual service, and for other purposes," Section 2, of which act provided that the widows and orphans of the militia who had been called into the service of the United States subsequent to the 1st day of September, 1817, or thereafter, might be called into said service, in prosecuting the war against the Seminole Indians, or who might have died or been killed, or who thereafter might die or be killed in such service, should be entitled to the same half-pay for five years, and pensions, allowed by the laws then in force, to the widows and or-

phans of the militia who died or were killed in the service of the United States during the war with Great Britain. On the 19th of March, 1836, Congress passed an act, Vol. 5, page 7, U.S. Statutes at Large, granting 'half the monthly pay" for five years, to the widows and orphans of officers and soldiers received into the service of the United States, to supress Indian depredations in Florida, who should die in such service, or at any time, by reason of wounds re-

On the 4th day of July, 1836, three and one-half months thereafter, Congress passed an act, Vol. 5, page 7, U. S. Statutes at Large, granting the same alf-monthly pay" for five years, to the widows and orphans of officers and soldiers who had died in the service subsequent to the 20th day of April, 1818, thus extending the same benefits to the widows and minor children of the officers and soldiers of he volunteers and militia, who had been or might be in the service subsequent to April 20, 1818, as were extended to such officers and soldiers for services in the Seminole Indian war of 1817. On the 21st of July, 1848, Vol. 9, page 249, U. Statutes at Large, the "half-monthly pay" for five years to widows and orphans provided for under

he first section of the act of July 4, 1836, was granted to the widows and orphans of officers and soldiers who died subsequent to the 1st of April, 1846, or who might die during the war with Mexico, from wounds received or disease contracted while in the years half-pay pensions granted to widows and minor children under the various acts

centioned, as well as all other similar acts, have been continued from time to time by acts of Coness for further periods of five years until June 3 1858. See act June 28, 1832, Sec. 2, Vol. 4, U. S. Statutes at Large, page 550; act July 21, 1818, Vol. 9, S. Statutes at Large, page 249, and act Feb. 3, 1853, Vol. 10, U. S. Statutes at Large, page 154. The act of June 3, 1858, Vol. 11, U. S. Statutes at be, granted and allowed five years half pay, under the provisions of any law or laws of the United States, be, and they are hereby, granted a continuance of such half pay, during the following terms and limitations, viz.: To such widows during life. and to such child or children, where there is no widow, whilst under the age of 16 years, to commence from the expiration of the half pay provided for by the first section of the act entitled 'An act to continue half pay to certain widows and orphans,' approved Feb. 3, 1853: Provided, however, That in case of the marriage or death of any such widow. the half pay shall go to the child or children of the deceased officer or soldier, whilst under the age of 16 years; and in like manner, the child or children of such deceased officer or soldier, when there is no widow, shall be paid no longer than while there are children or a child under the age aforesaid; And provided further, That the half pay of such widow and orphans shall be half the monthly pay of the officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates of the infantry of the Regular Army of the United States, and no more, and that no greater sum shall be allowed to any such widow or minor children than the half pay of a Lieutenant-Colonel: And provided also, That this act shall not be construed to apply to or embrace the case of any person or persons now receiving a pension for life and, further, that wherever half pay shall have been granted by any special act of Congress, and is renewed or continued under the provisions of this act, the same shall continue from the date hereof." It will be seen by this act that all those who had received or might thereafter receive a half-pay pension for five years were granted such pension for life. In this act were concluded all the half-pay-provisions for widows and minor children of soldiers of the old war.

The provisions of said continuing act of 1858 are embodied in Section 4725, Revised Statutes.

Under the provisions of Section 4712, Revised Statutes, the rates of pension allowed to all old war pensioners—when the title to pension originated prior to March 4, 1861—are made to conform from July 25, 1866, to the rates provided for pensioners of the war of the rebellion and since.

Section 49 of an act to revise, consolidate and amend the laws relating to pensions, approved March 3, 1873, 17th U. S. Statutes at Large, page 566, Section 4713, Revised Statutes, provides that in all cases in which the cause of disability or death originated prior to the 4th day of March, 1861, and an application shall not have been filed within three years from the discharge or death of the person on whose accout the claim is made, or within three years of the termination of a pension previof the same person, the pension shall commence from the date of filing by the party presenting the claim, the last paper requisite to establish it, provided that no claim allowed prior to the 6th day of June, 1866, shall be affected by anything contained

Under this section the right to the benefits of halfpay pensions on new applications provided for under any law of the United States is barred. The benefits conferred upon the widows and orphans under Section 1 of the act of July 4, 1836, which act includes the beneficiaries of the act of March 19, 1836, continued under the acts of Feb. 3,

lowed as pensions under the designation of haif-pay pensions to widows and orphans, and the records of the office of the Third Auditor show that they have been paid as pensions. That the benefits conferred upon widows and orphans by the first section of the act of July 4, 1836, which includes the beneficiaries of the act of March 19, 1836, are pensions, appears to be well estabished, not only by the various analogous acts, but by the appropriations from which they have been

This view of the case is also sustained by Attorney-General Butler, in his opinion of Oct. 24, 1836, in which he says: "Pensions to widows and orphans granted by the first section of the act of July 4, 1836, Chap. 362, commence from the day when the bill was approved by the President in all cases in which the death of the party serving occurred anterior to that day; in subsequent cases from the death of the party.

Section 1656 of the Revised Statutes was compiled from the said act of March 19, 1836, which provided the same "half-monthly pay" for five years to the widows and children of the officers and soldiers of the volunteer or militia corps employed in supressing the hostilities of the Florida Indians that nad been provided for the widows and children of officers and soldiers of the Regular Army The first section of the said act provided that the flicers and soldiers of the volunteer forces who

had been in the service of the United States at any

ime since the 1st of November, 1835, or who might hereafter be in the service, shall receive the same nonthly pay and allowances as was provided by officers, musicians, artificers and privates of the infantry of the Army of the United The fourth section of said act provided that the volunteers or militis who had been or might be received into the service of the United States to suppress Indian depredations in Florida should be

entitled to all the benefits which are conferred upon ersons wounded or otherwise disabled in the nited States service. The fifth section of said act provided that when any officer, non-commissioned officer, artificer or private of said militia or volunteer corps should e in the service, his widow, and if no widow, his children under 16 years of age, should receive half the monthly pay" for five years to which the decedent would have been entitled at the time

The sixth section of the said act provided that the volunteers and militia, mentioned in the foregoing provisions of the act, called into service before its passage, should embrace only those who were ordered into service by the commanding General or Governors of States and of the Territory of Florida, under the authority of the War Department, for repressing the hostilities of the Florida Section 1656 of the Revised Statutes having been

compiled from the fifth section of said act without change, except as to jurisdiction from the Secretary of War to the Secretary of the Interior, who is charged by the law with the supervision of public siness relating to pensions, it is clear that the benefits-whatever their character-conferred upon the widows and children referred to in Section 1656 of the Revised Statutes, are limited to the widows and orphans of soldiers of the Florida war. Section 5600 of the Revised Statutes provides that the arrangement and classification of the several sections of the revision have been made for the purpose of a more convenient and orderly arrangement of the same, and therefore no inference or pre-

by reason of the " Title" under which any particu- appointed Colonel of the 40th U. S. Inf. in 1866. The act of March 19, 1836, appears to be obsolete, as all its beneficiaries are provided for by the more comprehensive act of July 4, 1836, and its benefits cannot be extended to the soldiers of the late war, or their heirs, as by the terms of section 6, of said act, its benefits are limited to those who served in the Florida Indian war of 1835. No new legislation was contemplated by the re-

vision, and its benefits, either in section 1656 or elsewhere, have no application to the widows and orphans of soldiers of the late war. It is recommended that 1656 of the Revised Statutes be repealed, as its provisions are fully covered by Section 4732 of the Revised Statutes, under the le of "Pensions.

Its retention in the Statutes tends to create confusion and offers inducements to Claim Agents and others to initiate claims against the Governm resulting in unnecessary labor and cost to the Departments, even when it is shown, as in this case. hat all the benefits conferred by the act have been fully satisfied.

I also transmit a copy of a letter of the honorable Third Auditor relating to the early adjudica-tion and payment of "half-pay pensions" under the various acts of Congress referred to herein, with special reference to the acts of March 19 and July 4, 1836, with a draft of a bill for the repeal of Section 1656 of the Revised Statutes and request that it be reported to the House at an early day, and thus put an end to the numerous futile applications that are now being made under its provisthe service of the United States, die by reason

Very respectfully. JOHN C. BLACK. Commissioner.

PERSONAL.

Incidents, Accidents and Happenings Where Comrades are Concerned.

The gifted Mrs. Nellie Holbrook Blinn, wife of Comrade C. H. Blinn, of Geo. H. Thomas Post, San Francisco, Cal., and one of the finest elocutionists this country ever produced, has been giving a series of very successful entertainments in the leading cities on the Pacific Slope. Mrs. Blinn has a noble face and form and dramatic talent of the highest order, which she has carefully trained. She is the sister of several brave soldiers, as well as the wife of one, and has devoted her time and talent lavishly to the service of the G.A.R.

Maj, Lewis Merrill, 4th U. S. Cav., well-known n the Western army as Colonel of "Merrill's Horse" during the war, has been nominated by the President to be Lieutenant-Colonel, 8th Cav. He will soon reach the age for retirement

George Breniger, of Wooster, O., a former member of the 16th Ohio, was stricken with paralysis a few days ago. It is believed to be the effect of a wound received at Vicksburg. He was struck in the head by a fragment of shell, which tore away piece of the skull.

Maj.-Gen. Pope, who will be retired next month. says that he will probably travel in Europe and the East for a year, and will then make his home in either St. Louis or Cincinnati Edward Slocum, of New Richmond, Mich., who

eccived in pay as a soldier the first \$1 greenback sued, marked Series A, No. 1, and dated Aug. 1, 862, still has the bill in his possession Gen. Logan expects to leave Washington the

20th with Senator Palmer to attend a Republican club meeting at Detroit the 22d. Gen, John B. Turchin delivered an interesting ecture at Chicago last week, on invitation of the

survivors of his old regiment-the 19th Ill. His subject was "The Battle of Mission Ridge." He described the movements of the battle with great vividness and accuracy, and closed by saying: Grant in this battle displayed great generalship, but in the magnificent assault on Missionary Ridge the rank and file of the Army of the Cumberland outgeneraled Gen. Grant."

At the annual Encampment of the Department of Virginia, G.A.R., held at Newport News, Feb. 4 and 5, Col. Henry deB. Clay, who has during the past year been one of the most efficient Department Commanders, was unanimously re-elected for the ensuing term. This is very complimentary Large, page 309, provided "That all those surviving | to Col. Clay, as the Encampment was largely atwidows and minor children who have been, or may tended, on account of most important business before it, not only by Delegates from Virginia, but from North and South Carolina. Speaking of Col. Clay, it is an open secret that the Republicans of the Second Congressional District (Norfolk District) are contemplating making him their candidate for Congress at the next election. This they were strongly inclined to do before the last election, but Col. Clay refused to allow his name to be used against the present incumbent, Mr. Harry Libbey. In this District are many hundreds of ex-Union soldiers and sailors, as well as large numbers of Republican ex-Confederates, who have long been desirous of being represented in Congress by an influential soldier. THE NATIONAL TRIBUNG is well aware of the merits of Col. Clay, and is sure no better selection could be made, not only on ac- was a most faithful soldier, serving in all the camcount of his large and intimate acquaintance with paigns of the Army of the Cumberland. For many public men throughout the United States, but his accurate knowledge of public affairs. Should Col. Clay come to Congress, as it is to be hoped he may, the soldiers of the country will have in him another stanch friend, who will not be afraid to speak and act upon his convictions.

Capt. T. M. Elliott, Commander of Gibson Post, Greenfield, O., has been in Washington with his wife for several days visiting friends. Comrade Elliott enlisted in the 27th Ohio at the beginning of the war, and after serving with it for nearly three years accepted a commission in a colored regi- He enlisted in the Summer of 1862, and took part ment as Captain, and served with it till the end of in the many battles in which the regiment was en-

Gen. H. J. Hunt, the veteran Chief of Artillery

of the Army of the Potomac, is much concerned about the health of his son, who is a Lieutenant in the Navy. The young man was not content with one Arctic exploration, but had to participate in three voyages toward the North Pole, and while on these distinguished himself by the execution of unusually arduous and dangerous enterprises. The result is terrible inroads upon his constitution. For some time he has been at Colorado Springs trying to recuperate, and it is hoped that his strong will and natural stamina will finally pull him through. Post, G.A.R., of Joplin, Mo., of which he was an Dr. Jeel A. Partridge, of Kalamazoo, Mich.

ously granted on account of the service and death | and Dr. L. S. Putney, of Sturgis, have been appointed on the Board of Examining Surgeons of Kalamazoo, much to the satisfaction of the Grand Army men of that section, as both the gentlemen are earnest G.A.R. men.

Col. Robert P. Hill, of Kalamazoo, and formerly of the 1st Mich. Sharpshooters, is one of the most active and zealous G.A.R. men in Michigan, and is highly regarded by the comrades of the State. He is the author of the Grand Army Memorial Record, which is meeting with such a flattering acceptance 1853, and June 3, 1858, have been applied for and alby the Posts which have had their attention called

It is understood that Gen. Hazen throws all the responsibility for the big snow storm and the intense cold of the past week upon the ground hog. who is beyond the reach of court-martial or Congressional investigation.

A bill has deen introduced in Congress to relieve Richard Greene, of Chicago, from the charge of desertion. His story is a romantic one. He was born n Rochester, N. Y., in 1826, and is a grandson of Nathaniel Greene, of Revolutionary fame. At an early age young Greene ran away to sea, but soon tired of a sailor's life and, returning home, entered journalism and married Miss Rachael Flower, a relative of the Hon. Roswell P. Flower, of New York. In 1861 he enlisted in Co. I, 6th Mo., served for a time in Missonri, and was in Grant's army at Shiloh. Later, at Memphis, he was unjustly put in arrest. Escaping from his guard he joined the 11th Ill., though not mustered upon its roll. With this regiment he served through the siege of Vicksburg. Subsequently he was detailed as a clerk at Gen. Grant's Headquarters. He belonged to the command of Gen. Logan, and that officer, by general order, relieved him from the charge of desertion which stood against him on the rolls of the 6th Mo. Applying for a pension some time ago he was asonished to find that he was also on record as a deserter from the 11th 111, to which he never actually belonged, though serving with it for some months, Congress is now asked to relieve him from this bar to the consideration of his claim at the Pension

Maj.-Gen. Rufus Ingalls, the well-known, energetic, and omnipresent Quartermaster-General of the Army of the Potomae, from its organization to its disbandment-who did more real hard work than any other general officer ever connected therewith to insure its final success-is at the Arlington. Hotel for a few days, from his home at Portland, Ore. Gen. Ingalis entered the Army as a Cadet at the U. S. Military Academy, July 1, 1839; gradnated and was appointed Brevet Second Lieutenant, Mounted Riges-afterward the 2d cavalry-July 1, 1843. He was appointed Quartermaster-General U. S. Army, Feb. 23, 1882, and placed on the retired list as Major-General July 1, 1883. Ha looks hale and hearty, and is the same elegant gentleman and distinguished soldier that he ever

Brig.-Gen. Nelson A. Miles is the youngest of his rank in the United States Army. He married a niece of General and John Sherman, a sister of the wife of Don Cameron. By that marriage he is connected with the Ewings, Camerons, McCooks, Shermans, Blaines, Dahlgrens, McLeans, and several other political families. Gen. Miles is of the volunteer crop of soldiers. He entered the service in 1861 as Captain in the 22d Mass., and was subsequently sumption of a legislative construction is to be drawn | made Lieutenant-Colonel of the 61st N. Y. He was

Gen, Sheridan was once halted by G. M. Woodward, of Wisconsin, when the latter was a "high private" in the Army of the Potomac and on picket luty. A man on horseback came along and he greeted him with the proper salutation: "Who goes there?" "A friend," was the reply. "Advance, friend, and give the countersign!" said the young private. "I am Gen, Sheridan," said the horseman. Woodward gave him to understand that he didn't care if he was Gen. Sheridan; that he wanted the countersign, and he brough his bayonet close to the General's person and demanded the proper answer. Sheridan smiled, gave it to him, and, as he rode away, turned to remark; Young man, there's a regiment of infantry comng just behind me. Don't molest 'em."

An old soldier living at Lincoln, Ill., is suffering keenly from the erratic movements of a piece of shell which lodged in his breast during one of the early engagements of the rebellion, and which has hitherto given him no inconvenience.

It is said that the President will shortly nomlnate an officer for Judge-Advocate General of the Army in the place of Gen. Swaim, whose period of uspension extends beyond the date of his retirement for age. Among those prominently urged for the place is Henry R. Mizner, Lieutenant-Colonel of the 10th U.S. Inf. and Brevet Brigadier-General of volunteers. During the war he was Colonel f the 14th Mich, and served with distinguished gallantry. Before entering the army, in 1851, he practiced law in Buffalo, N. Y., with Mr. Cleve-

Gen. John F. Miller, Senator from California, continues in a critical condition. Last Friday a very delicate operation was successfully performed. A large quantity of fluid was drawn from the cavity of the pleura, giving the General great relief. He is much easier and is thought to be in a fair way to

OBITUARY.

Invasions of Death in the Ranks of Our Comrades. Young,-At De Witt, Mo., Jan. 13, W. E. Young,

Post, No. 178, Department of Missouri, G.A.R., under whose auspices he was buried HAWKINS.—Lieut. Martin J. Hawkins, 33d Ohio, died at Quincy, Ill., Feb. 7. He was one of the 24 ing men who, in 1863, under the leadership of ne Andrews, a Kentuckian, attempted to destroy the bridges and telegraph lines of the Chattanooga & Atlanta Railroad between Big Shanty and Chattanooga, the story of which is so graphically told the well-known book, "Capturing a Locomo-The raiders were captured before they reached the Union lines, and several of them were condemned to death and hanged. Hawkins and a ew others escaped, or were exchanged, and later ongress rewarded them by promotion. A gold medal was also presented to each survivor medal given to Lieut. Hawkins bears the following inscription: "The Congress to Private Martin J. Hawkins, Co. A, 33d Ohio Vols., with a First Lieutenant's commission." He was about 55 years old, ROWLEY .- At Chicago, Gen. J. C. Rowley, after a long illness. Gen. Rowley became widely known on account of his position as secretary to Gen. Grant, with the rank of Brigadier-General, during the last years of the war. In 1864 he returned to his home at Galena, Ill., where he has since resided antil his health failed, when he went to Chicago. Johnston.—At Philadelphia, Feb. 5, Capt. Jos eph R. Johnston, Co. H, 15th Pa., aged 63. Com-

egan, 6th Pa. Cav., aged 48. Comrade of Post 115. KREIBER.-At Philadelphia, Feb. 5, Isaac H. Kreiber, Comrade of Post 2 McDonald,-At Coloma, Mich., Jan. 21, John McDonald, Co. K, 12th Mich., aged 59. He was fatally injured by the fall of a tree in the woods where he was at work. His remains were taken to Niles, Mich., for burial. He was a member of Garfield Post, No. 30, Department of Michigan, and his was the first death since the Post was organized, four years ago.

BUCK.—Suddenly at Coloma, Mich., Jan. 27, Al-

WALLACE,-Gen. William Wallace, who for the

KONEGAN.-At Philadelphia, Feb. 5, Albert Kon-

rade of Post 7.

bert Buck, 74th N. Y., aged 52.

past in years filled a position as a gauger in the Custom House at Philadelphia, died in that city Feb. 7, aged 58. He served with conspicuous gal-Brigadier-General. PORTER.-At Beach Pond, Pa., Jan. 24, N. W. Porter, Co. E. 2d Pa. H. A., aged 79. He served frem Dec. 16, 1861, to Dec. 28, 1864. Saltsman,-At Avoca, N. Y., Jan. 26, Jacob H. Saltsman, First Lieutenant, 107th N. Y., aged 46. He went out as First Sergeant, Co. G. and was soon after commissioned Second Lieutenant. For galantry at Antietam he was promoted to First Lieutenant. He was wounded at Chancellorsville, but recovered in time to be in his place at Gettysburg.

His corps was then transferred to the West, and he served in the Atlanta campaign and went through to the sea with Sherman. He was again wounded at Bentonville, and was mustered out with his regiment in June, 1865. ANDERSON,-Near Doniphan, Kan., Jan. 17, Anders Anderson, First Sergeant, Co. G. Sth Kan. He years he had suffered greatly from injuries received in the army. As a citizen he enjoyed in the fullest

degree the esteem and respect of the community in which he lived. HAMLIN.-Curtis W. Hamlin, late private, Co. D. 3d Iowa, died Dec. 28, 1885, at Keokuk, Iowa. MOREHEAD.-At Onawa, Iowa, Nov. 29, 1885 William Morchead. He was a member of Co. H. 15th Iowa, from January, 1862, until the regimen was mustered out of the service, July 24, 1865. Woodmanser, Hinckley S. Woodmanser, late private, Co. F. 15th Iowa, died at National Home D. V. S., at Milwaukee, Wis., Jan. 6.
PLUMER.—Comrade W. S. Piumer, Co. F. 16th Ohio, died at Tolcdo, O., Jan. 30, after a brief illness.

gaged. At the expiration of the term of the regi-ment he was transferred to the 114th Ohio, and served the balance of his time in that regiment. Fox .- Wm. Fox, of Co. B, 6th Kan. Cav., died at Numa, Iowa, Jan. 26. A soldier without fear and without reproach. Born in England, he was loyal to the home of his adoption.

ABBOTT.-At Joplin, Mo., Jan. 21, Dr. J. C. Abbott, of pulmonary consumption, which he contracted while in the army. He culisted in Co. I, 46th Ill., Oct. 12, 1861, when but 17 years eld. He partici-pated in the battles of Fort Donelson, Shileh, Hatchie, Spanish Fort, Fort Biakely, and the steges of Corinth and Vicksburg and the capture of Mobile, He practiced medicine 10 years at Joplin, Mo. The funeral services were conducted by O. P. Morton